

Serial No.: 09/355,214
Filed: July 23, 1999.

In the claims:

Claims 23-34 are cancelled without prejudice, disclaimer or admission.

Please add the following new claims:

- 35. A recombinant BLNK protein, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
36. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 35, wherein said BLNK protein comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
37. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 35, wherein said BLNK protein will bind to a protein selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck.
38. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 35 or 37, wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence which lacks at least one tyrosine phosphorylation site corresponding to a tyrosine phosphorylation site selected from the group consisting of Tyr71, Tyr83, Tyr95, Tyr177 and Tyr187 in SEQ ID NO:1.
39. A recombinant BLNK protein, wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
40. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 39, wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
41. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 39, wherein said BLNK protein will bind to a protein selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck.
42. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the BLNK protein according to any one of

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Claims 35 to 41.

43. An antibody, which will bind to the BLNK protein according to any one of Claims 35 to 41.

44. A method for screening for a bioactive agent capable of binding to a BLNK protein, comprising:

- a) combining a BLNK protein and a candidate bioactive agent; and
- b) determining the binding of said candidate bioactive agent to said BLNK protein;

wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and will bind to a protein selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck in the absence of said candidate bioactive agent.

45. A method for screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating the activity of a BLNK protein, comprising:

- a) combining a BLNK protein, a candidate bioactive agent, and a BLNK binding partner selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck; and
- b) determining the binding of said BLNK protein to said BLNK binding partner;

wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said BLNK protein will bind to said BLNK binding partner in the absence of a candidate bioactive agent, and wherein a decrease in the binding of said BLNK protein to said BLNK binding partner in the presence of said candidate bioactive agent indicates that said candidate bioactive agent is capable of modulating the activity of a BLNK protein.--

REMARKS

Claims 23-34 are pending. Claims 23-34 have been cancelled without prejudice, disclaimer or admission. Claims 35-45 have been added and consideration of these new claims and the remarks that follow as they pertain to the new claims is respectfully